

New Books.

The Ancient World; or Picturesque Sketches of Creation. By D. T. ANSTED, M.A., F.R.S. Van Voorst, Paternoster-row. 1847.

PROFESSOR ANSTED is already so well known as sound and well-informed writer on geology, that little recommendation can be needed for the work before us. The object of it is to communicate, in a simple form, to the general reader, the chief results of geological investigation. While technicalities are avoided, it gives a complete idea of all that is known on the subject, at least in its broad outlines.

A very pretty binding, an example of what may be done by taste at small cost, further concurs to make it a nice "present" for young friends.

The First Book of Euclid's Elements, Simplified, Explained, and Illustrated for the Use of Beginners. By the Rev. W. TROLLOPE, A.M. Foster, Paternoster-row, 1847.

THIS will be found an excellent introduction to a knowledge of algebra. It is so small that none will doubt their ability to grapple with it, yet contains sufficient to make the after study easy.

Correspondence.

THE PREVENTION OF THE ESCAPE OF NOXIOUS GASES FROM SEWERS.

SIR,—Agreeing to the fullest extent with the observation of Mr. Godwin on this subject, at the last meeting of the "Institute of British Architects," I beg to contribute my mite in the shape of a few suggestions for the attainment of this object:

The principal gas which is generated by the sewage matter, and which finds its way through the gully holes and gratings is, I believe, sulphuretted hydrogen, which is well known to be not only obnoxious, but extremely prejudicial to animal life. The plan I should adopt is as follows: I would trap (without exceptions) all the gully holes where the water finds its way into the sewers, and for this purpose I think the trap made use of in the city of London, viz., a cast-iron valve or swing flap, is as efficient as any. The only other openings from the sewers to the streets I would place at the junctions of the streets, in the positions where it is usual at present to have obelisks and lamp posts; and at these points I would have shafts for the passage of the deleterious gas from the sewer. In a convenient position in the shaft (above ground) I would fix an apparatus, somewhat similar to the water gas meter at present in use, so that the gas, in its passage up the shaft, should pass through its contents (which should consist of a solution of chlorine), which would deprive it of the sulphur, and the hydrogen would find its way out of the shaft harmless. All that would be necessary to keep up this effect, would be to change the solution occasionally, which could be done with very little trouble.

The shafts would not take up any more space than the obelisks and lamp posts which we place at the junctions of our streets, and they might be used for the latter purposes if thought necessary; and might be made to form very ornamental objects.

I am Sir, &c.,

"C. B."

MARY-LE-BONK VESTRY: BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.—The Commissioners of Baths and Washhouses recommend, as an eligible site for new baths and washhouses, the present bowling-green, &c., of the "Yorkshire Stingo," an area of three-fourths of an acre; cost, 5,500l. In their report it is added, that thus also a much-required improvement would be effected, viz., the widening of Stingo-lane running into New-road. Dr. Spry, the chairman, expressed his conviction, from practical knowledge, that the parish would not only be gainers by the outlay in erecting baths and washhouses, but that the rates would also be materially relieved.

WESTMINSTER AND LAMBETH BRIDGE.—The bill to give power to Sir Samuel Brown to construct this bridge, was opposed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and lost, on a division for second reading, by a majority of 15, on the 26th ult.

Miscellaneous.

COUNTY COURT COMFORTS, INJUSTICE TO JUSTICES.—The defective arrangements of County Court Houses to which we have ere now repeatedly pointed attention, have at length compelled the judges to adopt a somewhat new line of defence, or rather of attack, in the hitherto vain endeavour to remedy the evils complained of. Mr. Justice Maule, the other day, at Reading, came into court with his little three-cornered hat in his hand, and casting his eyes in all directions, without finding room for its convenient deposit, very gravely requested the under-sheriff, in a clear and official tone of voice, to take it back to his lodgings, as there was evidently too little space for it there. It was well with him at Reading, however, as he probably himself thought when he went to Gloucester, where the lodgings devoted to his judicial service don't appear to have been fit to hold even his official 'tilet,' and at all events consisted of such a dog-hole, as he himself stigmatized them—say, an unventilated, undrained, fœtid dog-hole—that he declared it to be impossible to sleep in them, and accordingly politely intimated, that in consequence of being obliged to shake the magisterial dust of Gloucester off his feet every night, and betake himself to Cheltenham, for a human habitation, he exceedingly regretted that he should be unavoidably unable to open the court for business at the usual hour. Thus ridicule, shame, and public exposure may accomplish what private expostulation has endeavoured in vain to do. The extremely defective ventilation of the Taunton Court House too has been calling forth the indignant animadversions both of bench and bar. "The warming and ventilation have been declared to be execrable. The bar pathetically assured Mr. Justice Cresswell the other day that the cold was killing them." The judge advised them to make out their own wills and submit themselves to their fate, consoling themselves with the assurance that they were not a whit worse off than he was, in a fever of heat on one side and a freezing cold on the other, the mean difference of 40 degrees being probably designed "to keep us independent between both parties," and being, at all events, he might have added—carrying forth his very apt and natural figure of speech, if figure of speech indeed it be, to its still more obvious conclusion—very fitly representative of that heat, as well as coldness, which the atmosphere of law courts is at all times apt to engender between two unhappy litigants.

ENGLISH SCULPTORS IN ROME.—A correspondent in Rome supplies the *Athenæum* with some information as to what our sculptors are doing in that high temple of the art. Gibson is at work, and has been so for some time, on, amongst a variety of other things, a *basso-relievo* for Lord Fitzwilliam, whose subject is "The Hours with the Horses of the Sun." This sculptor will be at Liverpool in the course of the summer, for the purpose of selecting a site for the statue of Huskisson. Wyatt has finished a statue of "A Female leaving the Bath," for Lord Canning; and a "Venus and Cupid," for Mr. Holford, of Park-lane. Macdonald is about a bust, yet in clay and unfinished, "of so striking a character," says our correspondent, "that I must make it the subject of an especial mention. It is a portrait of Lord Walpole, who is now here. It is finished in the simple Greek manner, without the usual drapery round the shoulders. Macdonald intends remaining in Rome during the summer, to make a large statue of "Eurydice," for Lord Ward. There "has had a great deal to do this winter, and has now many commissions. Amongst these are two statues, ordered by Queen Victoria: "Narcissus at the Fountain," and "Psyche." He is making in clay a full-length statue of "Rebecca," for the daughter of the late Mr. Rondell. His "Prodigal Son" is nearly completed in marble. Mr. Gibson's statue of the Queen, which was on its way to England, has been, and we fear still is, in a perilous position.

STAINED GLASS IN NORWICH CATHEDRAL.—The dean and chapter of Norwich have commissioned Mr. Warrington to fill the Norman window at the east end of the cathedral with stained glass, as a memorial to the late Canon Thurlow. The three upper perpendicular windows above this are already filled by the same artist.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement for the works necessary in the erection of a church in Lancashire; a church at Greenwich; a chapel at Luton; a chapel and other work at Gloucester; a corn-exchange and markets at Lincoln; a lunatic asylum at Birmingham; a small house near St. Ives; twelve houses at Battersea; a new street at Wainfleet, three cottages at Hornchurch; a police station-house at New-castle; a lock-up house at Wooler; stables at Cardiff Castle; a temperance hall at Birmingham; a number of coke ovens at Shoreham; a stone terrace, ornamental walls, &c. near Oundle; a concrete sea wall, with stone coping, steps, and other works, at Yarmouth; a bridge and other works at Bristol; a reservoir and other works at Bury water-works; sewers, land drains, and other works in Southampton Marsh; a supply of gravel at Chelmsford, and of ballast-gravel and core, at Islington; arching of 1,190 feet of sewer, at Westminster; building railway station-houses at Skipton and Kildwick, goods-shed at Bingley, and several cottages between Keighley and Skipton; maintaining and upholding the way and works of the coast-lines of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company; erecting a passengers' station platform and iron-roofing at Nottingham; supplying 1,500 tons of cast-iron girders, &c. for tubular bridges across Menai Straits and river Conway; and about 3,500 yards of main, with turned and bored joints for Hamburg gas works; for painting houses at Southwark and workhouse at Lambeth; and for painters' glaziers', plasterers', masons', and other works at St. Michael's Church, Southampton.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—On the 27th ultimo, the paper was "On the laws of isochronism of the Balance spring as connected with the higher order of adjustments of Watches and Chronometers," by Mr. C. Frodsham. The first portion gave an historical sketch of the horological inventions and writings of the artists of the 18th century, which appear to constitute the basis of all the knowledge possessed in the present day, and the principles of whose school are still invariably followed in the construction of both watches and chronometers of the better sort. It was admitted, that by the aid of machinery and the practical skill of the workmen, the separate pieces of clocks and watches are now produced in a high state of perfection; but it was contended, that horology, as a science, had declined since the days of Hooke, Barrow, Sully, Graham, Harrison, Canus, Mudge, Elliot, the two Arnolds, Earnshaw, Le Roy, Berthoud, and others, whose splendid talents and scientific attainments were all devoted to the elevation of the art of constructing time-keepers. Amongst these, Dr. Hooke appears to have been the first to bring the force of acute reasoning and pure mechanical genius to bear upon the practice of the art, and his experiments upon the pendulum, and the application of the balance-spring, unquestionably laid the foundation of the chronometric art. It is evident that he partially raised the veil which concealed the laws of the isochronism of the spiral spring, as is demonstrated by his expression "ut tensio, sic vis,"—and it is extraordinary, that so plain a hint was not immediately seized upon by the able men who succeeded him. Arnold appears to have been the first who really practically comprehended the subject, and in the course of his researches he invented the cylindrical spring and compensation balance, which formed the commencement of a new era in the science. The paper then considered generally and technically the subject of the isochronism of the balance-spring, enumerating isochronism to be an inherent property of the balance-spring, depending entirely upon the ratio of the spring's tension, following the proportion of the area of inflection; a balance-spring, therefore, having the progression required by the law of isochronism, will preserve that property, whether it be applied to a balance striking quick or slow vibrations.

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES
During the coming Week.

THURSDAY, May 11.—Institution of Civil Engineers, 25, Great George-street, S.W.; 8 P.M. Egyptian Society, 71, Mark Lane, 8 P.M.
FRIDAY, 12.—Society of Arts, Adelphi, 9 P.M.; Graphic Society, Threadneedle House, 9 P.M.
THURSDAY, 12.—Society of Antiquaries, Somerset House, 9 P.M.
FRIDAY, 14.—Archæological Association, 9 P.M.